

SIKKIM



GOVERNMENT

GAZETTE

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT
GANGTOK**

No. 534/FS&ADD

Dated: 20.07.2018.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the State Government has deemed it expedient to frame the Scheme to promote interest of Sikkimese farmers and to encourage people to adopt farming for self employment;

Now therefore, with a view to achieve the above objectives, the State Government is hereby pleased to make the following Scheme regulating the grant of Farmers Pension Scheme, namely:-

**Short title and
commencement**

1. (1) This Scheme may be called the Sikkim Farmers Pension Scheme, 2018.
- (2) They shall come into force at once.

Definitions

2. (a) "Department" means the Food Security and Agriculture Development Department;
- (b) "District Level Committee" means the committee constituted under clause - (ii) of rule -10;
- (c) "Farmer" means a tiller who is a holder of Sikkim Subject Certificate / Certificate of Identification (COI) and holding land less than 04 hectare and solely engaged in farm related activities of agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors namely animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries, bee keeping and earning his or her livelihood through farming;
- (d) "Field Functionaries" means personals deployed in the field for extension work;
- (e) "Government" means the State Government of Sikkim;
- (f) "Head Quarter" means the head office of Food Security and Agriculture Development Department, Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok;

- (g) "Pension" means the Sikkim Farmers Pension Scheme;
- (h) "State Level Committee" means the committee constituted under clause – (iii) of rule 10;
- (i) "Verification Committee" means the committee constituted under rule – 5.

Project Management Team

3. There shall be a Project Management Team for the purpose of collecting information of the farmers eligible for the pension under the Scheme and their functions are as under; namely:-
 - (i) project building and processing etc. by Head Quarter;
 - (ii) collection of information by Village Level Worker/Field Assistant/Block Technology Manager/Assistant Technology Manager;
 - (iii) information so collected shall be checked by Ward Panchayat, Agriculture Development Officers and Inspectors;
 - (iv) screening of the beneficiaries by Deputy Directors, and Joint Directors of the district.

Selection of pensioners

4. The selection of pensioners under the Scheme shall be on the basis of:-
 - (i) farmers data available with Sikkim Organic Mission as base data;
 - (ii) verification of data, Gram Panchayat Unit wise, by field functionaries of Food Security and Agriculture Development Department and Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department.
 - (iii) field functionaries of Food Security and Agriculture Development Department and Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department shall collect the data in Form 'A' appended to these rules;
 - (iv) verified data shall be placed in Gram Shaba, ward wise for authentication.

Verification and authentication Committee

5. There shall be a committee constituted for the purpose of verification and authentication of the pensioners under the Scheme consisting of following members, namely:-
 - (i) Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department.
 - (ii) District Collectors of the districts.
 - (iii) Joint Secretary, Social Welfare division.
 - (iv) Block Development Officer.
 - (v) Social Welfare officer or any other senior officer of Social Welfare division nominated by the Secretary in-charge.

Eligibility Criteria

6. The eligibility criteria for the purpose of the Scheme shall be under, namely:-The farmer should be:-
 - (i) of 50 years of the age and above and solely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood;

- (ii) in possession of Sikkim Subject Certificate/ Certificate of Identification (COI);
- (iii) in possession of land record/ parcha for less than 04 hectare;
- (iv) cultivating the land on Adhya or kut basis on written and verbal agreement with land owner;
- (v) in possession of individual land record (parcha) but staying under one roof with relatives.

Exclusion criteria

7. The following persons shall not be eligible for pension under the Scheme, namely:-
 - (a) All Centre and State Government employees, pensioners and professional including those who are engaged in private sectors inclusive of M/R and contractual workers.
 - (b) Land owner who doesn't do farming and lease out his land to the tenants.
 - (c) Those who are drawing old age pension and other welfare benefits viz Kumari Bhatta, disabilities and under privileged benefits.
 - (d) Land Lords having more than 04 hectare of land.
 - (e) Trade license holders.
 - (f) All categories of enlisted contractors and those who have their private firms registered in their names.

Amount of Pension

8. The amount of pension payable to each person shall be Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand) only per month.

Number of persons

9. Only 1 (one) member in the house hold shall be eligible for pension. In case of death of the pensioner, such pension shall be transferred to his/her spouse or any one of the members of the family fulfilling the eligibility criteria for farmer pension.

Monitoring and Verification

10. For monitoring and to verify the continued existence of the beneficiary and other relevant particulars, verification shall be conducted in the following manner, namely:-
 - (i) 100% Physical verification of beneficiaries by field functionaries every year.
 - (ii) District Level Committee constituted by respective District Collector, shall verify 5 % of beneficiaries in every 06 months.

The District Level Committee shall consist of the following members, namely:-

 - (a) District Collector of respective district.
 - (b) District Joint Director and Deputy Director of Food Security and Agriculture Development Department and Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department.
 - (c) District Social Welfare officer.

- (iii) State Level Committee constituted at the state level shall verify 1 % beneficiaries in every 06 months.

The State Level Committee shall consist of the following members, namely:-

- (a) Secretary, Food Security and Agriculture Development Department.
- (b) Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department.
- (c) Principal Directors and Directors of Food Security and Agriculture Development Department and Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department.

Fund flow mechanism in the Scheme

11. State Government shall provide funds to Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department in the State plan. Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department shall transfer the funds to the district on quarterly basis. Districts shall transfer pension amount to the beneficiaries account every month through Direct Benefit Transfer.

Sanctioning Authority

12. The Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department shall be the competent authority for approval and sanction to make payment of pension to the eligible beneficiaries.

Recovery of fund

13. The Sanctioning Authority shall have the right to recover payments made on the basis of false or mistaken information, if any, about the eligibility and death of beneficiaries.

Administrative Expenses

14. 0.5% of the total fund allotted in the budget shall be allowed to make expenditure by the Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department towards the printing of application forms and 0.5% shall be allocated to Food Security and Agriculture Development Department as touring allowances to the field functionaries, who are engaged in collection of information of the beneficiaries.

By order and in the name of the Governor.

**KHORLO BHUTIA, SAS
PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR CUM SECRETARY,
FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
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File No. 747/71/FS&ADD**